

Message Text

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TAGS: OGEN, SCUL, DR

SUBJECT: "OPERATION SHOESTRING" --THE MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 936

1. THE MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY'S VISIT TO SANTO DOMINGO MARCH 18-21 WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS WITH THE ORCHESTRA'S TWO CONCERTS ATTRACTING ENTHUSIASTIC CAPACITY AUDIENCES. THIS CULTURAL UNDERTAKING

THE FIRST TIME A MAJOR U.S. SYMPHONY HAS PLAYED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC--WAS A JOINT PROJECT CARRIED OUT BY COMBINING THE RESOURCES OF THE GODR, FUNDING BY PRIVATE DOMINICAN AND U.S. BUSINESSES OR ASSOCIATIONS, WITH COORDINATION AND FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE BY THE U.S. MISSION.

2. THE MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY MADE ITS DEBUT MARCH 19 WITH A FREE "POPS" CONCERT IN THE PALACIO DE LOS DEPORTES, PART OF RECENTLY-COMPLETED CENTRAL AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN GAMES COMPLEX. A HETEROGENEOUS AUDIENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 10,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, GAVE CONDUCTOR KENNETH SCHERMERHORN AND HIS ORCHESTRA STANDING OVATIONS AT INTERMISSION, AT THE END AND--MORE SURPRISING--AFTER THE ENCORE (SOUSA'S "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER"). THE TREMENDOUS POPULAR PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE POPS CONCERT HAS REVEALED THE POTENTIAL OF THE PALACIO FOR CULTURAL AS WELL AS SPORTS EVENTS.

3. ON MARCH 20, THE MILWAUKEE'S CONCERT AT THE NATIONAL THEATER IN BENEFIT OF THE CENTRO DE REHABILITACION WAS A UNCLASSIFIED

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SELL-OUT OF 1600 SEATS, AND MARKED PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S

FIRST PUBLIC SOCIAL APPEARANCE AFTER A YEAR OF MOURNING AND HIS FIRST ATTENDANCE AT A NATIONAL THEATER PRESENTATION. THE SYMPHONY'S GALA PERFORMANCE WAS FURTHER ENHANCED BY SOPRANO CAROL NEBLETT, WIFE OF MR. SCHERMERHORN AND ONE OF THE U.S.'S MOST PROMISING YOUNG OPERA STARS, WHO SANG THREE OPERATIC SELECTIONS DURING THE CONCERT. FOLLOWING CONCERT, A RECEPTION IN EMBASSY GARDENS PRESENTED A PLEASANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME 400 DOMINICAN GUESTS, RANGING FROM MUSICIANS TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND HIS CABINET, TO MEET THE TALENTED AND YOUTHFUL MEMBERS (98 STRONG) OF THE MILWAUKEE GROUP. THIS MARKED THE FIRST SOCIAL OCCASION SINCE JULY 4, 1970, THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS VISITED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, TESTIMONY TO THE VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION HE HAD OF THE SYMPHONY MEMBERS AND THEIR PROGRAMS.

4. PROGRAMS, PHOTOS AND A SELECTION OF PRESS CLIPPINGS ON MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY VISIT WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY. HURWITCH

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